

OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Dorchester County, 1676–1682. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 1,050 acres in Dorchester County. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: will probated on November 7, 1692, in Dorchester County. LAND: at least 4,566 acres (of which 3,180 acres later became part of Sussex County, Delaware).

**STEVENS, JOHN** (?–1785). BORN: in Dorchester (later became Caroline) County. NATIVE: fifth generation. RESIDED: on a 470-acre plantation named “Retaliation” on Hog Creek off of the Choptank River in Caroline County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Walter Stevens (?–ca. 1776) of Caroline County. MOTHER: Rachel, daughter of *Hugh Eccleston* (?–1710/11). BROTHER: William (?–1773). SISTERS: Mary; Anne, who married Joseph Richardson; and Sarah. FIRST COUSIN: *Thomas Firmin Eccleston* (ca. 1738–1785). MARRIED by 1785 Ann. She subsequently married by 1790 Charles Blair. **CHILDREN.** SONS: William; John. DAUGHTERS: two mentioned, but not named, in will. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Stevens mentioned an unborn child in his will. **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican; owned a pew in Hunting Creek Church, Caroline County. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1783; Esq., by 1783. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: 5th Convention, Caroline County, 1775. **LOCAL OFFICES:** Committee of Observation, Caroline County, in office 1775; justice, Caroline County, 1783–1785. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME.** PERSONAL PROPERTY: assessed value £742.0.0, including 11 slaves and 27 oz. plate, 1783. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 470 acres in Caroline County (inherited from his brother in 1773). **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** inherited 1,241 acres in Caroline County from his father and his brother, 1776–1783. **WEALTH AT DEATH.** DIED: between February 21 and April 14, 1785, in Caroline County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £1,694.12.4 current money (including 18 slaves, books, and 48 oz. plate); FB, £1,485.8.10. LAND: 1,711 acres in Caroline County.

**STEVENS, JOHN** (ca. 1735–1794). BORN: in March, ca. 1735, in Talbot County; probably eldest son. NATIVE: at least fifth generation. RESIDED: near Dividing Creek, Third District, Talbot County. **FAMILY BACKGROUND.** FATHER: Thomas Stevens (1710–ca. 1782) of Talbot County,

Gent., planter, son of John Stevens (?–ca. 1742) and wife Elizabeth. MOTHER: Juliana (ca. 1707–?), widow of William Stevens (?–ca. 1733), daughter of William Thomas (1669–1740) and wife Jean Riddell. **UNCLE:** *William Thomas* (1705–1767). **AUNT:** Elizabeth Thomas (ca. 1701–1755), who married *Edward Needles* (1695/96–1751/52). **BROTHERS:** Samuel; William; and Tristram. **HALF BROTHERS:** William Stevens; Peter Stevens (1729–?). **HALF SISTERS:** Elizabeth Stevens (1730–?); Anne Stevens (1732–?). **FIRST COUSIN:** *John Allen Thomas* (1734–ca. 1797); *Nicholas Thomas* (?–ca. 1784). **MARRIED** by 1765 Elizabeth (?–1791), probably the daughter of Terrence Connolly (?–1750) of Talbot County, Gent., and his wife Mary. Elizabeth was the stepdaughter of Matthew Lewis Barnett. Her brothers were probably John; William (?–ca. 1751). Her sisters were probably Mary; Sarah. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Terrence Connolly directed in his will that his children were to be brought up in the Roman Catholic faith. **CHILDREN.** SONS: Samuel (1778–1860), a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, governor of Maryland from 1822 to 1826, who married in 1804 Eliza (?–1834), daughter of Col. Robert May and Rebecca Potts of Chester, Pennsylvania; Benjamin (?–1794); and Thomas (?–1796). **DAUGHTERS:** Juliana (1765–1823), who married Joseph Martin; Mary (?–1828), who married first, in 1794, Nathaniel Manning (?–1796), and second, in 1797, Rev. James Thomas (1765–1827); Eliza, who married first, John R. Downes, and second, Francis Rochester; Sarah, who married by 1794 James Nabb; and Henrietta (Henry) (1776–1809), who married in 1795 John Thomas, Jr. (ca. 1763–1802). **PRIVATE CAREER.** EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Anglican by 1781; father was a Quaker; wife was probably a Roman Catholic. May have been the John Stevens dismissed from the Society of Friends in 1759 because he had “suffered a Dark and Libertine spirit to prevail over him in allowing of fiddling and dancing (at his house). . . .” **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1765; Esq., at death. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** planter. **PUBLIC CAREER.** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Talbot County, 1778 (election to the 1778–1779 Assembly voided by the House on November 7, 1778, because of improper election procedures by the Talbot County sheriff), 1786–1787. **OTHER STATE OFFICE:** Constitution Ratification Convention, Talbot County, 1788. **LOCAL OFFICES:** justice, Talbot County, 1770–1774, 1777; sheriff, Talbot County, appointed 1774, resigned November 1775; Com-